

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01884 301905Z

43

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 301349Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2551

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO (SMITH, DENNIS)

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF STAG DENNIS SMITH

REF: STATE 086223

1. AFTER EXTENSIVE EMBASSY DISCUSSION, POST RELUCTANLTY MUST DECLINE OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM DENNIS SMITH. IN OUR JUDGMENT, ALTHOUGH WE CONSIDER THE SHORT-TERM VISITS OF MAJOR AMERICAN WRITERS TO BE A PROGRAM TOOL OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE HERE, SMITH WOULD NOT SERVE THE POST'S GOAL OF ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING THE U.S. ORIENTATION OF THE WRITER'S COMMUNITY HERE.

2. IN LIGHT, HOWEVER, OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION IN PROPOSING SMITH AND THE ENTHUSIASM AND INTEREST WITH WHICH THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT OTHER AREA POSTS (MOSCOW 5431 AND WARSAW 2274), WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT TO EXPAND SOMEZQAT ON OUR RATIONALE IN DECLINING SMITH VISIT.

3. THE UNION OF ROMANIAN WRITERS HS CONFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD BE "WILLING" TO RERKIVE SMITH DURING BUCHREST VISIT.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01884 301905Z

UNION CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE "COURTESY GESTURE"

AND NOT REFLECTIVE OF SERIOUS UNION INTEREST IN SMITH VISIT.
(AT THE SAME TIME, UNION REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN
FORWARDING THEIR INVITATION TO SAUL BELLOW FOR ROMANIAN VISIT
IN COMING MONTHS.) IN ADDITION, JUNE TIMING ELIMINATES
FULBRIGHT PARTICIPATION SMITH PROGRAM AND INCLUSION OF
IMPORTANT ACADEMIC AUDIENCES FROM POSSIBLE SCHEDULE.

4. BASICALLY, PROGRAMMING THEMES INHERENT IN DEPARTMENT'S
RATIONALE FOR PROPOSING DENNIS SMITH (PARA 3 REFTTEL) ARE
PRECISELY THOSE WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, RENDER HIM UNSUITABLE FOR
ROMANIAN PROGRAMMING. BLUE COLLAR/SELF-MADE MAN/WORKING
CLASS THEMES, ALTHOUGH IDEOLOGICALLY PERTINENT HERE, HOLD NO
SPECIAL APPEAL FOR OUR AUDIENCES NOR DO WE CONSIDER IT
EFFECTIVE FROM A PROGRAMMING POV TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH
THESE THEMES. OUR AUDIENCES FOR LITERARY PROGRAMMING ARE
SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN U.S. FIGURES SUCH AS BELLOW,
UPDIKE, MAILER, AND HELLER. POST WOULD BE INTERESTED IN
FUTURE AVAILABILITY THESE WRITERS FOR VISITS DURING COMING
PROGRAM YEAR AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING LIAISON WITH WRITERS'
COMMUNITY HERE.
BARNES

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